Write-Right!

(c) 1993 by
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Sub-Etha Software!

Preface

The one thing I never wanted to do was write a word processor. So, is this manual a figment of your imagination? Are you sure the disk you purchased isn't blank? And if the answer to those questions is "no," then what possessed me to write a word processor?

Well, to answer the first two questions, no, no one has drugged your beverage (this is not a "virtual" manual), and your disk certainly should not be blank. So, that leaves me a possessed computer programmer. (Actually, I think anyone who programs computers has to be a little possessed.) So why did I do it, or better yet, why didn't I want to do it in the first place?

To be honest, writing a good word processor is quite a difficult and time consuming task! There's so many details to consider, so many features needed, and you never can quite finish the program, since there's always more features to be added! So, what provoked me to do such an act? I could not bear to have a system I spent over $1,500 on sitting dormant while I used my $120 (when I bought mine) CoCo 3 to do my word processing!

I needed something that would be powerful and flexible. I found a couple programs in development which showed some degree of promise, but they really were not word processing, and didn't take advantage of the power my new computer had! So, I decided it was time to take on the challenge myself and write a full-featured word processing program for K-Windows. Write-Right! is that program. (Quick! Check the label on your disk!)

Write-Right! is a WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) word processor. Some people confuse this with being able to manipulate graphics or graphical fonts. I did not want to make this a desktop publishing program, since what I needed was a true word processor. I really wanted to keep my printer in text-mode at all times, instead of the slow graphics mode that some programs utilize. So, what makes this program WYSIWYG? It shows the correct style (bold, italics, underline, color) and margins on screen while you type as they will appear on the printed page. You know what your text will look like without having to go into a special mode to see centering, margins, etc.

I would like to thank **Keith Bauer** for his *"fantastic, as usual"* beta-testing of this program before public release. He's been an invaluable resource of ideas, as well! (Keith, thanks for letting me crash your computer occasionally, too!) Plus, a special thanks to **James Jones**, who has provided me with a slightly better italics font than the one I originally had.

Also, special thanks to **Allen C. Huffman**, President of Sub-Etha Software. He's helped so much in getting this, and my other programs, to you. I'm very glad he founded Sub-Etha Software, and I strongly believe the rest of the OS-9 community is as well. Thanks, Allen!!

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I would also like to say a few words about Sub-Etha Software, which has been quite good to me. Fair royalties, lots of creative freedom, and encouraging, enthusiastic people make Sub-Etha a company I'm proud to work with. If you are a programmer writing for OS-9 (6809 or 680x0), definitely keep Sub-Etha Software in mind as a company to market your software. I've had bad experiences with other companies in the past, so I know what I'm writing about!

Finally, if your disk does turn out to be blank (no, really, it shouldn't be... I really did write a word processor...), or if you should have any other comments or questions, you can contact Sub-Etha Software in the following ways:

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And, as always, thank **you** very much for your support.

-- Joel Mathew Hegberg.

'*Do not fear to put thy feet*
Naked in the river sweet...'

-- *John Fletcher (1579-1625)*

Getting Started

As always, make a back-up of your Write-Right! installation diskette, just in case! Keep the original in a safe place, and use the backup diskette for installing Write-Right!

To install Write-Right!, simply copy *'wr'* and *'crtprtobj'* from the **CMDS** directory on the installation diskette to your **/dd/cmds** directory. Copy the font files 'plain.fnt' and *'italics.fnt'* over to your **/dd** directory. Before running WR, you should type the following:

OS9: **merge plain.fnt italics.fnt**

If you forget this, fonts may appear strange on your screen. You may want to put this in your **startup** file.

Defining Your Printer

Each printer has its own set of codes for turning on italics, bold, underline, etc., which can be found in your printer's manual. Write-Right! uses an idea known as "printer objects" to keep track of this information. For each printer, you have a printer object defining these codes. You must keep these files in your shell's *$HOME* directory. If it is not defined, you can define it using the command:

OS9: **setenv HOME dir**

Where **dir** is your *HOME* directory. This is usually set automatically when you log-in using *TSMON*.

Also, printer object files must have the extension **.prtobj** to be recognized. To create a printer-object file, use the *crtprtobj* (create printer object) command followed by the filename.

Within *CRTPRTOBJ*, first select the printer path by pressing the **Path** button at the bottom-center of the window. Type in the path to the printer, i.e. **"/p"**. You can also use a disk path if you wish to have your output go to a disk file, i.e. **"/dd/sys/output.printque"**.

To cycle though the features, use the **Next** and **Prev** buttons. To set the code-length (number of bytes to send to the printer) of a feature, click on the left/right arrows. To type in the codes to send, click on the shaded-in box(es) and type the byte value *(in decimal)* and press ENTER. If your printer does not support a particular feature, leave the code length at "N/A" for Not Available. When finished, click on the **Save** button to save the printer object. To exit without saving, either click on the **Quit** button or on the small *exit-box* at the top-left corner of the window.

To edit existing printer object files, simply follow the same procedure. The existing printer object data will be loaded and properly displayed for you to edit. You may edit existing printer object files from within Write-Right! via the *CrtPrtObj* option in the **COFFEE-CUP** menu.

Entering Text

Write-Right! shows your text on-screen the way it will be printed on your printer. Above the text area is a ruler, which measures character-positions. Your current margins are marked in red on the ruler. Also on the ruler is a small button marked 'I' or 'O'. Clicking on this (or pressing the **INSERT** key on your keyboard) will toggle this button, which stands for Insert/Overstrike mode. While in Insert mode, characters typed will be inserted in front of any characters in the current paragraph, and the existing characters will be pushed ahead. In Overstrike mode, characters typed will be placed atop existing characters.

Also on the ruler are the single- and double-spacing buttons. When printing is selected, this determines if the output is single- or double-spaced.

Some special keys available while entering text are **Delete, BackSpace, Arrow Keys, Page-Up/Down, Home, End,** and **Tab. Delete** is used to erase the current character the cursor is on. **BackSpace** erases the character before the cursor. The **Arrow Keys** allow you to move up/down/left/right through your text. **Home** and **End** keys take you to the beginning or end of the current text line, respectively. **Tab** will space in four characters.

If you want to quickly move your cursor to a text position on-screen, simply point the mouse to that text position and click the mouse button. Your cursor will appear where you clicked.

Sometimes, using the **Page-Up/Down** keys to scroll through a document is not fast enough. You've probably already noticed the *slider* on the right side of the screen. It slides from the top of the screen to the bottom, which represents the length of your document from top to bottom. The slider always indicates your current position in the document. If you wish, you can drag the slider up or down to instantly move to another location in your document. This is especially useful for larger documents.

Cut and Paste

Cut and Paste can be accomplished by moving your mouse into the text-area of the document, then hold down the mouse button and move the mouse to highlight the text area you wish to get. Release the mouse button when you're done. Now, that text is selected and can be cut/copied via the **EDIT** menu. When text is cut or copied, it goes into a buffer called the *ClipBoard*. This is what get's pasted into the text using the *Paste* option in the **EDIT** menu. To see what's on the clipboard, select *Show Clip* from the **EDIT** menu.

Using Different Type-Styles

Write-Right! gives you on-screen display of italics, bold, underlining, and color. If you wish to change the current style, click on the **STYLE** menu and select a new style. If you choose *Color*, another menu will appear containing the various colors available. You can mix and match color, bold, italics, and underlining to meet your needs.

If you need to change the type-style of some existing text, you can select the desired text using the same method described for Cut & Paste operations (see **Cut and Paste**). Then, use the selections in the **STYLE** menu to change the text's style.

Remember, when you save your document, if you save it in ASCII format, the type-styles are lost, as they are not supported in the ASCII standard. To save your type-styles, save the document in WR-Document format by using the *Save as...* function in the FILE menu. (See **Loading, Saving, and Starting Over** for more information on saving.)

Loading, Saving, and Starting Over

To load in a text file or document in from disk, choose *Open* in the **FILE** menu. This will pop-up a red file-selection window, which functions the same way all standard K-Windows file-selection windows do. Choosing a new directory will transfer you into that directory. All files are shown in alphabetical order.

When you select a file, WR checks to see if the file is saved in WR-Document format, which contains various style data for the document. If not, WR assumes the file is a standard ASCII text file. During ASCII text file loads, certain characters (such as Line-Feeds and other control codes) are ignored, with the exception of the TAB (09) character, which is translated into four spaces.

There are a few ways to save a document. If you have loaded in a file from disk, or if you've previously saved the document, WR will remember the file's name (shown at the bottom of the screen in blue lettering), and you need only choose *Save* from the FILE menu to re-write the file to disk. If you have not yet named the file, or you wish to save the document under a different file-name, choose either *Save as...* or *Save Ascii* from the **FILE** menu for saving in WR-Document format or ASCII text file format, respectively.

If you want to change the current disk path to your files, you may select *Disk Path* from the **FILE** menu and you will be prompted for the new path name, relative to the current data directory.

The *New* function in the **FILE** menu will erase the current document in memory, giving you a fresh start. You need not *New* an old document before loading in another document... this is done automatically by WR.

Printing Documents

Before you are able to printer anything, you must define your printer by creating a printer object file (see <u>Defining Your Printer</u>). To select that printer object file, choose the *Printer* option in the **SETTINGS** menu. Click on the icon of the printer object file you wish to use. This creates an access path to the printer associated with the selected printer object file.

Many options vary the way your document will be printed. Most of these options are in the *Other* menu selection in **SETTINGS**. When type-styles are used in a document, but not supported (not defined) by the printer object file in use, the unsupported type-style is ignored. However, only the unsupported style will be ignored, meaning if some text is supposed to be bold and italicized, and your printer only supports bold, the text will appear in bold.

To start printing, choose the *Print* option from the **FILE** menu. To abort printing, you may press the *Space Bar* (note, this may take a couple seconds to take effect).

Changing Margins

Changing margins is easy in WR! Simply select *Margins* from the **SETTINGS** menu, and you will be allowed to select the location of the left-margin via the mouse. The right-margin selection will follow. After selecting your new margins, WR will reformat your document to the new margins.

Showing Carriage Returns

Sometimes, it's helpful to know where paragraphs end, which happens when you press the *RETURN* or *ENTER* key (known as a *Carriage Return*). When word-wrapping occurs, it continues through the end of the current paragraph, so making carriage returns visible is sometimes necessary for the user to predict word-wrap behavior. To toggle between visible and invisible CR's, choose *Show CR* from the **SETTINGS** menu. CR's are displayed as *paragraph* markers.

Saving and Loading Personal Settings

Personal settings may be saved/loaded using options in the **SETTINGS** menu. These personal options are stored in your *$HOME* directory, along with your printer object files. If your *$HOME* directory is not defined, the */dd/SYS* directory is used. The settings in the *$HOME* directory are loaded up each time you run WR.

Because the *$HOME* directory is accessed, many users can use WR with their own personal settings without affecting other users' settings.

The Search Menu

The **SEARCH** menu has a few goodies in it. *Goto...* will take you to any line in your document, given the number of the line. In WR, lines are numbered with the first line starting at one (1).

Word Count will count the total number of words in the current document and report the answer. This is very useful when documents must be over or under a certain number of words!

Find lets you set up find/replace fields. To being the actual search, click on the *'S'* in the upper-left corner of the *Find* window. You need not specify a replace field if you only want to locate a string of characters in your document.

Find begins searching at the current cursor position and works it's way towards the end of the document. Please note that *Find* will not work for strings that are not on the same line (broken strings).

Re-Wrap and Centering

Sometimes, you make changes in a paragraph and word-wrap does not occur. To force word-wrap on a paragraph, simply position the cursor on the line you wish word-wrap to begin at and choose *Re-Wrap* from the **EDIT** menu, and word-wrap will occur through the rest of the paragraph.

If you would like some of your text centered on a line, position the cursor on the line you wish to have centered, and choose *Center* from the **EDIT** menu. If you add or delete more characters from the line, it may no longer be centered, and you may wish to re-center the line.

Memory Usage

WR requests more memory as it needs it. You can see how much memory WR has requested by choosing *Memory* from the **COFFEE-CUP** menu. You are shown how many lines are used in the current document and how many are reserved for the buffer. As the number of lines used approaches the number of lines reserved, WR reserves more lines from your computer's memory.

Sometimes, you may want to shrink the amount of memory WR has reserved. This can happen in you load in a large file into WR (which then reserves a lot of memory), and later load in a relatively small file. WR does not release memory unless you request it to do so. So, to resize WR's text buffer to an optimum size for the current document, click on the *Minimize* button in the *Memory* window.

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Shell Access

To access a shell, use the *Shell* option in the **COFFEE-CUP** menu. When you are through, you can return to WR by pressing the *Esc* key on a line by itself.

Screen Refresh

Sometimes, due to lack of available memory or other miscellanious error conditions, the window WR is running in may become garbled (this is more true on 1-meg systems). To resolve this, you can request WR to refresh its display by selecting *Refresh* from the **COFFEE-CUP** menu.

K-Windows Features

In K-Windows, you can manipulate the windows on your display. Some standard K-Window icons are used by WR.

To *"pick-up"* WR's window and move it, click at the very top-left corner of WR and release the mouse button. Move the window to the new location and click again to *"drop"* the window.

If you have more than one window on the same screen, you can force WR to the very back of the *"pile"* of windows by clicking at the very top-right corner of WR and release the mouse button. (Note that you will not notice anything if WR is the only window on the current screen, or if it is not overlapping any other windows.)

Quitting

To exit Write-Right!, you can either choose *Quit* from the **FILE** menu, or click on the *exit-box* (the second icon on the menu-bar). You will be prompted if you are sure, to avoid exiting without saving your current document.

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Notes:

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